

**ORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**July 23, 2004**  
**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Patricia Craddock, DDS, Chairperson, Nevada Dental Association  
Tyree Davis, DDS, Clinical Manager, Miles for Smiles  
Michelle Kling, RN, Division Director, Washoe County District Health Department (WCDHD)  
Michael Sanders, DMD, Ed.M, Director of Patient Care Services, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, (UNLV), School of Dental Medicine, State Dental Health Consultant  
Victor A. Sandoval, MPH, DDS, Professor, UNLV School of Dental Medicine  
Maureen Fanning, RN, Public Health Nurse Manager, Clark County Health District (CCHD)  
Betty Pate, RDH, M.Ed, University and Community College System of Nevada, Nevada Dental Hygienists' Association  
Shari Peterson, RDH, M.Ed, State Board of Dental Examiners  
Carol White, Ed.D, Coordinator, Positive Behavior Support, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Research and Education Planning  
Roger Volker for Patricia Durbin, Deputy Director, Great Basin Primary Care Association, (GBPCA)

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT**

Mark Rosenberg, DDS, MPH  
Joseph Patero, Senior Advocate  
Pastor Anthony Steele, Bethel AME Church  
Mike Johnson, LADC, BS, MS, Manager, Saint Mary's Outreach Programs

**NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION STAFF PRESENT**

Judy Wright, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Family Health Services (BFHS)  
Chris Forsch, RDH, BS, Oral Health Program Manager, BFHS  
Tami Terstege, Administrative Assistant, BFHS  
Mary Knight, Administrative Assistant, BFHS

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Lori Benven, Executive Director, Northern Nevada Dental Society  
Rota Rosaschi, Health Network Director, Nevada Public Health Foundation

**CALL TO ORDER INSTRUCTIONS**

Dr. Patricia Craddock called the Oral Health Advisory Committee (OHAC) meeting to order at **10:10 am** at the Health Access Washoe County Community Health Center (HAWC). This was a public meeting and the public was invited to make comments. In accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law, this meeting was posted at the following locations: Bureau of Family Health Services (BFHS), Carson City; Kinkead Building, Carson City; Nevada State Library and Archives, Carson City; Washoe County District Health Department (WCDHD), Reno; Clark County Health District (CCHD), Las Vegas; Elko Nursing Office, Elko; HAWC, Reno; and on the Nevada State Health Division website at [www.health2k.state.nv.us](http://www.health2k.state.nv.us).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2004**

Dr. Craddock asked for two corrections to be made to the March 19, 2004 meeting minutes. The first correction would be on page 2, agenda item 4, line 13 following the word majority the extra "the" should be removed. The second correction would be on page 4, agenda item 6, line 8 the second word should read "scored". Dr. Victor Sandoval asked to have the word "that" follow "commented" to

clarify the sentence, which is on line 10 of page 3 of agenda item 4. Shari Peterson motioned to approve the minutes as amended and Dr. Sandoval seconded. **MOTION APPROVED.**

### **STATE DENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANT REPORT**

Dr. Michael Sanders stated he would like to emphasize the last paragraph of his report. He reported he left the Oral Health Summit with the impression the OHAC was viewed as a significant entity on issues of oral health within the state. He continued by saying the general consensus of those in attendance at the Summit is this committee should be a body of representation for oral health issues in the state. Dr. Sanders urged the committee members as part of their burden of responsibility for being on the OHAC to take an active role when advocating for those oral health issues which could benefit Nevada's population.

### **ACTION-COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM REPORT AND DIRECTION TO PROGRAM**

Chris Forsch stated since the committee has had the opportunity to read the report, she would only be reporting on the updates for each goal. She reported she received formal notification and received the grant, which includes both the base and the supplemental, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Ms. Forsch continued by stating the CDC did raise the base funding from \$319,365 to \$450,000. She announced Nevada now receives the largest amount of funding of any of the twelve states participating in the program. It was noted the increase is not based on need but on performance. Ms. Forsch stated Nevada would be receiving an additional grant for \$65,000 over three years. She proposed to use this money to strengthen the existing school based dental sealant program by providing \$25,000 a year to the northern rural program and \$40,000 to the southern program. Ms. Forsch was informed Oral Health America is applying for a CDC grant and if approved, it would provide the southern sealant program with an additional \$25,000 a year for three years.

#### **Goal 1. To Maintain Oral Health Program Leadership Capacity**

Ms. Forsch stated with the Oral Health Program funding now available, she would be hiring a half-time evaluation consultant. This consultant will put together evaluation tools and then implement them. Mr. Forsch used as an example, the 150 formal health plan evaluations, which were sent out and only 13 returned. With the consultant on staff, a more thorough follow-up program can be implemented.

#### **Goal 2. To Describe The Oral Health Disease Burden Health Disparities And Unmet Needs In The State.**

Ms. Forsch stated the 2004 Head Start Oral Health Survey has been approved and is in the process of being printed. She provided a copy of the report to those in attendance and made note of the difference between Washoe County where 65% of children have caries experience compared to Clark County where 50% of children have caries experience. The ages of these children are between 3 and 5 years old. Coincidentally, it was approximately five years ago when Clark County began fluoridation. Ms. Forsch commented the Head Start programs asked for individual reports for each grantee so they could see how their programs compared to others but the grantees requested the information not be published.

Ms. Forsch reported preparations for the Senior Oral Health Survey have begun. She explained she would like to gather data not just from individuals in long-term care facilities but from the general senior population too. Dr. Tyree Davis spoke regarding the stumbling blocks his program has faced and Ms. Peterson spoke about the hygienists she recently talked to regarding

the senior community needs. Ms. Forsch suggested working together with Dr. Davis and Ms. Peterson in accessing the senior population.

**Goal 3. To Update A Comprehensive Five-Year State Oral Health Plan.**

Ms. Forsch stated the Oral Health Plan has been updated and will be covered further in Agenda Item 6.

**Goal 4. To Sustain A Diverse Statewide Oral Health Coalition To Assist In Formulation Of Plans, Guide Project Activities And Identify Additional Financial Resources.**

Ms. Forsch disclosed she would be hiring, through Great Basin Primary Care Association (GBPCA), an Americorp or Vista volunteer who will be a coalition coordinator. This coordinator will be available to all coalitions, attend all coalition meetings, and provide support to them in their activities in promoting oral health.

Ms. Forsch stated she is in the preliminary stages of planning the Oral Health Summit for 2005. She stated it will be different from last year because it will be focusing on ways to implement the plans decided on at the previous Summit. She is looking to establish a planning committee and if any OHAC members are interested in participating they should contact her by August 13, 2004.

**Goal 5. To Enhance The Oral Disease Surveillance System By Continuing To Collect, Analyze And Disseminate Data To Support Program Activity.**

Ms. Forsch stated the Oral Health Module is now a mandatory module on the Behavior Risk Factor Screening Survey (BRFSS). This is a wonderful accomplishment and she is currently seeking to work with the Department of Education (DOE) to incorporate oral health questions on the Youth Risk Behaviors Survey (YRBS) also. Ms. Forsch explained this is a survey that is implemented in the middle and high schools. The data received from this survey would supplement the data from the Crackdown on Cancer (COC) program. Ms. Forsch reported Thara Salamone, the Oral Health Program Biostatistician has received the entire database from COC and is in the process of analyzing the data.

Ms. Forsch reported Ms. Salamone and Lori Cofano, the Oral Health Fluoridation Consultant believed the fluoridation tracking information received from the geological service has too many gaps and they are not comfortable publishing the information. The approval to purchase a colorimeter has been received so water collection from the communities where data on the amounts of naturally occurring fluoride is not available can be done. This data along with the data from the geological service will give a better picture of Nevada's fluoride levels.

**Goal 6. To Identify Prevention Opportunities For Systematic, Sociopolitical And/Or Policy Change To Improve Oral Health By Conducting A Periodic Assessment Of Policy And Systems Level Strategies With Potential To Reduce Oral Disease.**

Ms. Forsch stated she worked with the Community Coalition for Oral Health to develop information sheets, which she is hoping will provide information to policy makers. The information sheets were presented to the Northern Nevada Dental Coalition (NNDC) and at their last meeting elected to endorse them. Ms. Forsch requested the OHAC also add their endorsement to the papers. Michelle Kling initiated a discussion regarding the information sheet entitled Dental Workforce. It was noted much controversy surrounds this sheet and it has been

revised three times. Ms. Forsch stated the Dental Association is currently reviewing the paper and is unsure of whether they will be revising the paper or writing one of their own. She also noted she is preparing county specific papers on the six topics covered in the information sheets.

Dr. Sandoval motioned to endorse all of the information sheets with the exception of the Dental Workforce paper and Maureen Fanning seconded. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Dr. Craddock noted the Dental Workforce information sheet endorsement would be tabled for a future meeting.

Dr. Davis commented he was not aware when he moved to Nevada five years ago that fluoridation was such a hot topic. Ms. Forsch gave a brief history of fluoridation within the state of Nevada, noting Nevada statutes read that a county of over 400,000 in population must fluoridate. Clark County is currently the only county in the state meeting this criterion. Ms. Forsch reported according to the state demographer the population of Washoe County would reach 400,00 by the year 2006. She commented she would be surprised if someone does not introduce legislation to raise this ceiling. If it is not raised during this session and if Washoe County reaches 400,000 prior to the following legislative session, it would then have to fluoridate the water. Ms. Forsch is speculating this may be an issue in the upcoming legislative session.

Ms. Forsch noted CDC has hired a consultant to do research in communities who have recently had fluoridation initiatives both successful and unsuccessful. CDC has targeted Washoe County and they are interviewing proponents and opponents of the fluoride issue. Ms. Forsch stated she has an interview scheduled with them as does Ms. Cofano.

Ms. Forsch stated bill draft requests (BDR) are being posted. There has been one request submitted by Senator Maggie Carlton, which is specific to the Board of Dental Examiners. The OHAC has requested Ms. Forsch keep the board advised of any new BDRs relating to oral health.

**Goal 7. To Develop And Coordinate Partnerships To Increase State Level And Community Capacity To Address Specific Oral Disease Prevention Interventions.**

Ms. Forsch commented the program at HAWC, which targets women and children, is going very well. HAWC is working with Washoe Pregnancy Center to get 100 women into the clinic for preventive treatment and care. Ms. Forsch stated there would be valuable data coming from this program. She also reported the project funded to GBPCA where they are working with the Southern Nevada Dental Society is progressing well. As of June, they had their first six children go through the program.

Dr. Sanders spoke regarding the television spots he and Ms. Forsch did with Bob Fisher of the Nevada Broadcasters Association (NBA). Ms. Forsch relayed that the NBA has done over 1.5 million dollars worth of airtime and over 14,000 radio and television messages. Dr. Craddock mentioned she would like to see oral health messages on the tray papers and bags at McDonalds and Wendy's restaurants. Dr. Davis remarked it might be a consideration to put the messages on the buses, which go into the rural areas.

Ms. Forsch stated she is the Chair of the National Oral Health Conference this year, which will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in May of 2005. The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) are the sponsors. This conference brings together people from research, education, and programs. The Special Care Dentistry meeting will be held in conjunction with this conference in 2006.

**Goal 8. To Coordinate And Implement A Limited Community Water Fluoridation Program.**

Ms. Forsch stated there are no remarks for this item.

**Goal 9. To Evaluate, Document And Share State Program Accomplishments, Best Practices, Lessons Learned And Use Of Evaluation Results.**

Ms. Forsch stated she sent out requests to every organization who provides oral health services to gather information for the annual report. She sadly related quite a few organizations have not responded. Ms. Forsch commented she would be contacting those who have not responded personally.

**Goal 10. To Develop, Coordinate And Implement Limited School-Based Or School Linked Dental Sealant Programs.**

Ms. Forsch reported the various programs are having an impact. Ms. Peterson stated in Clark County they have placed 1,000 sealants. Ms. Forsch explained Clark County's program is completely done by volunteers and was started within the last few months and the program in Washoe County has a full paid program where 1,835 sealants have been done. The Washoe County data includes St. Mary's.

Dr. Sanders explained CDC is who awards most of the monies to the oral health program. It is after regular program reviews by a CDC program evaluation specialist that a formal report is written. It is this report which is reviewed when our program applies for funding. The program is provided a copy of the report and in this program's last report there was not a negative comment noted. The report stated Nevada is the most positive and progressively effective state in the program with its strength being in its evaluation process. Dr. Sanders gave Ms. Forsch kudos for her insistence on having evaluations as an integral part of the oral health program.

**ACTION-REPORT ON MEDICAID/FIRST HEALTH TELECONFERENCE CALLS AND DIRECTION TO PROGRAM**

Dr. Craddock spoke regarding the teleconferences with First Health and Medicaid where billing and reimbursement concerns were discussed. She stated during the first call with them it was agreed all future questions would be submitted in advance to allow them time to properly do research and provide answers. Dr. Sanders discussed the claims process, which has improved for newly submitted bills but is still lacking in the processing of old claims. Both Dr. Sanders and Dr. Craddock agreed and have been insistent with Medicaid they would not help with recruiting until the claim process has been corrected. Dr. Sanders also noted he took issue with them regarding the advisory role within Medicaid. Chuck Duarte denied a separate dental advisory committee because Dr. Craddock represents dental on the Medical Care Advisory Committee

(MCAC), which is in the process of reviewing the entire Medicaid manual. However, dental is a very small portion of the manual. Each specialty within MCAC has a subcommittee and the dental subcommittee has four members two from the south and two from the north. Dr. Craddock stated this subcommittee met only once and is now considered dissolved. At this time, she would like to know dental advocates have an avenue within Medicaid to voice their concerns. Dr. Craddock stated she wants to be part of the liaison process within Medicaid and help get it simplified. She feels the dental subcommittee should be reinstituted and OHAC should have an input on who should be on that committee. Ms. Forsch suggested a letter be sent from Dr. Craddock as the chair of the OHAC and a member of the dental subcommittee to Mr. Duarte suggesting his approval to work on reconvening it.

Mr. Volker spoke regarding the safety net providers. He explained these providers have endured enormous costs for patient care. He stated First Health has a financial responsibility to not only settle the claims but to cure the problem they created by helping organizations recoup these costs.

Lori Benven, Executive Director of the Northern Nevada Dental Society spoke regarding her organization's concerns and frustration. Ms. Benven reported she sent a letter to all members of the Society asking for feedback regarding Medicaid. There were quite a few responses received. She stated she had participated in two of the teleconferences with First Health but was unaware questions had to be submitted prior to the call. She was also under the impression no more than four questions could be submitted at a time. Ms. Forsch asked Ms. Benven to send all the questions to her and she will forward them to First Health.

Ms. Forsch made the observation it is important to get this subcommittee within Medicaid re-established so providers will know they have outlet for their concerns. She suggested this committee make a list of issues to be addressed and then start with the acute problems. Ms. Forsch stated she would draft a letter from Dr. Craddock to Mr. Duarte regarding the reactivation of the subcommittee along with suggestions for possible members and a proposed direction.

Dr. Davis motioned to have Ms. Forsch draft a letter to Mr. Duarte at Medicaid regarding the continuation of the dental subcommittee within Medicaid along with the recommendation of possible members and Ms. Peterson seconded. **MOTION APPROVED.**

#### **ACTION-COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING STRATEGIES BY THE ORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2004 STATE ORAL HEALTH PLAN**

Dr. Craddock asked for comments regarding this agenda item. Ms. Forsch stated in 1.1 if there is a time in the future when funding is an issue she hopes there would be advocates from the OHAC to keep the program running.

Carol White spoke in regards to 1.4 of the plan. She inquired about collection of data in regards to individuals with disabilities and if it has been a focus of the OHAC. Ms. White stated she had received a grant under the disabilities category and stated it would behoove this organization to do data collection so when this funding becomes available again in 2006 the data would be available. Dr. Craddock strongly supported this and believes there is a great lack of care in this

under represented population. She would like to see this addressed even before the senior surveys are done. Ms. Forsch stated the oral health program is not limited to surveying one target population a year. She continued by adding there have been no mechanisms in place to gather this information. To do so, she would need to know what specific questions would need to be answered.

Ms. White asked if the OHAC has addressed pre-service training for dentists to provide them with information. Dr. Craddock spoke regarding how the training is done currently. Ms. Forsch suggested a small subcommittee be created to look at the developmental disabled issues and try to determine the needs, burden of disease and then working towards the development of training materials. Dr. Sanders spoke of his experience in setting up trainings for dental schools in other states. A discussion took place about the problems in getting the medical and dental communities together regarding integrating curriculums for training into their schools of education. Ms. Forsch suggested the OHAC continually keep pushing the medical schools to include dental training in their curriculum.

In section 3.8, regarding implementing legislation to prohibit the sale of soda pop in schools, Ms. Peterson stated there is a BDR to do this. She suggested contacting the initiating legislator to work with them on the language of the bill. Ms. Peterson explained the parent teacher association (PTA) at the schools get a large amount of educational money from the corporations who have machines in the schools. Ms. Forsch suggested drafting a letter from Dr. Craddock to the legislator stating the OHAC is willing to help in whatever way is needed. Ms. Kling stated there is a large debate going on in Washoe County regarding this issue. She believed it would be of benefit to the OHAC to track what is going on in Washoe County. Ms. Forsch stated she would use her contacts in Washoe County to keep the OHAC informed on what is happening with this issue.

Dr. Sanders stated 3.7 looks at the issue of distribution of services, which is a major point about dental service throughout the state. It talks about expanding the work force and productivity in dental health by creating incentives. He explained there are other alternatives to look at besides distribution. Dr. Sanders would like to see a work group formed to look at an array of realistic recommendations.

Ms. Peterson stated 3.6 is an item of discussion on the Board's agenda. Ms. Forsch suggested a letter of support be written which Ms. Peterson could present. Dr. Craddock stated receiving continuing education credit for voluntarism is the way to get more volunteers.

Ms. Peterson motioned to approve all of the special directions: to establish a disability subcommittee of OHAC to look at the burden of disease in special needs community and to investigate establishing continuing education for providers within that community; contact and work with Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) and to contact the general practice residency program to see how OHAC can advocate to get dental included in the curriculum; to write a letter of support to the state board of dental examiners to allow a portion of continuing education requirements for licensure to be completed by providing oral health services on a voluntary basis; to establish a work group to investigate how we can expand the oral health work force capacity and productivity in dental health professional shortage areas; to investigate who has

submitted the BDR related to oral health screening prior to enrollment and the sale of soda pop so a letter of support can be sent to them offering the assistance of OHAC; and to track what is happening in Washoe County regarding the sale of soda pop in schools so data can be gathered and Ms. Kling seconded. **MOTION APPROVED.**

**ACTION-COMMITTEE CALENDAR. DETERMINE DATES FOR FUTURE MEETING.**

The next meeting date is set for November 19, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. in Las Vegas at the UNLV School of Dental Medicine.

**PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION.**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at **1:20 p.m.**